NEWS

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Board creates \$1,000 rewards to catch illegal dumpers

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday continued to make San Bernardino County an unfriendly place for illegal dumpers, approving an agreement with WeTip Inc. to create a reward program for those who turn in guilty parties.

The board on Tuesday unanimously supported an agreement between the county and WeTip to create a program in which private citizens can provide information about illegal dumping in the unincorporated areas of the county and receive up to \$1,000 if the information results in an arrest and conviction. The board allocated \$25,000 for the program and reward funding.

Citizens may provide information starting immediately by calling We Tip at: (800) 78-CRIME or by submitting information online at www.wetip.com

"San Bernardino County is serious about improving the quality of life for our residents and making our county an attractive place for good employers," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane. "That's why we're taking a zero-tolerance approach to illegal dumping."

"We are proud to live in San Bernardino County. We value our communities. And, we support our residents in their efforts to improve their neighborhoods. We cannot tolerate anyone who seeks to spoil that," said Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales.

"Anyone thinking about dumping in our county had better think again," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. "With the assistance of WeTip, we will be adding another tool to our fight against illegal dumping."

The reward program follows the March 13 adoption by the board of an ordinance establishing civil and criminal penalties for the crime of illegal dumping and describing the powers of an Illegal Dumping Enforcement Officer. The board on that date also directed the county's Land Use Services Department to develop the reward program.

The Board of Supervisors has also acted to install surveillance cameras in areas susceptible to illegal dumping. The cameras have been in service since late last month and are positioned in such a manner that vehicles are visible coming to and going from the sites and are motion-activated so that only suspect activities are recorded. Additional cameras are planned.